

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10  
DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
DPW-01 /112 R

DRAFTED BY IO/HR:FJCRAWFORD:BKM  
APPROVED BY IO/HR:WEHEWITT  
EUR/NE:REWOODS  
D/HA:HKHILL  
L/UNAAKRECZKO  
-----036739 220450Z /21  
R 212143Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UNGA

SUBJECT: SWEDISH INITIATIVE FOR TORTURE CONVENTION

REF: (A) USUN 1955, (B) STATE 129285, (C) USUN 1712

1. DEPT'S FINAL POSITION ON SWEDISH INITIATIVE AIMED AT  
CONVENTION ON TORTURE MUST AWAIT PRECISE STATEMENT OF  
PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION NOW BEING DRAFTED. ON AN  
INTERIM BASIS YOU MAY INFORM THE SWEDISH MISSION THAT WE  
ARE INTERESTED IN THE IDEA AND, AS A GENERAL RULE, ARE  
PREPARED TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES, SUCH AS THIS, WHEN THEY  
HOLD OUT SOME GENUINE HOPE OF BEING AN EFFECTIVE BAR TO  
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TORTURE. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT, IN WORKING OUT THE  
DETAILS OF THEIR PROPOSALS, WE THINK THE SWEDES SHOULD  
BEAR IN MIND THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) IF A CONVENTION IS TO ADD ANYTHING TO INTERNATIONAL  
LAW ON PROHIBITING TORTURE, IT MUST CONTAIN GENUINELY  
EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.

(B) WORK ON A TORTURE CONVENTION SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY DEFLECT UN ORGANS, ESPECIALLY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC), FROM TAKING CONCRETE STEPS DEALING WITH EXISTING SITUATIONS WHERE TORTURE IS

ALLEGED. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE PROLONGED NEGOTIATION OF A CONVENTION USED AS A CONVENIENT PRETEXT FOR SUBSTANTIVE INACTION.

(C) THE HRC IS ALREADY SERIOUSLY BEHIND IN ITS WORK, AND WE DO NOT WANT THE SWEDISH INITIATIVE, OR ANY OTHER USEFUL APPROACH TO TORTURE, MERELY BURIED IN THE HRC'S AGENDA.

2. IN DISCUSSING ABOVE WITH SWEDES USUN SHOULD BEAR IN MIND HOW THEIR PROPOSAL WOULD MESH WITH U.S. INITIATIVE ON TORTURE RECOMMENDED REF (C). DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS ON TORTURE, REQUESTED REF (B) AND USUN'S COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY OF ORGANIZING CORE GROUP TO DEVELOP AND ASSESS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ATROCITIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 USUN NEW YORK 1955, 77 STATE 129285, 77 USUN NEW YORK 1712  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, PORG, XX, US, SW, UNGA  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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